

June 9, 2008

E-19J

Mr. Nick Chevance  
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226

**Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Draft General Management Plan/Draft Wilderness Study for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Benzie and Leelanau Counties, Michigan, CEQ#: 20080134**

Dear Mr. Chevance:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft General Management Plan (GMP), Wilderness Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), issued by the National Park Service, for the project listed above.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore consists of a mainland portion plus North Manitou and South Manitou islands and is in the northwestern portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The park is 71,291 acres total.

Five alternatives are presented in the DEIS. There is a no-action alternative that primarily reflects current conditions and activities at the park. There are four action alternatives (preferred, A, B, and C) representing different ways to manage the site. Four Management Zones have been designated in the Draft GMP. They are as follows: High Use, Experience History, Recreation, and Experience Nature.

The no-action alternative does not contain any Management Zones. The other four alternatives were closely aligned in the Management Zones of High Use and Experience History, except alternative A, which only designated 1% of the park to High Use. The preferred alternative is zoned for 25% Recreation and 67% Experience Nature. Alternative A is zoned for 19% Recreation and 74% Experience Nature. Alternative B is zoned for 56% Recreation and 35% Experience Nature. Alternative C is zoned for 25% Recreation and 66% Experience Nature.

The wilderness study designates the following percentages of wilderness for each action alternative: 46% for the preferred alternative (32,200 acres), 47% for alternative A (33,600 acres), 20% for alternative B (14,400 acres), and 32% for alternative C (23,200 acres). The no-

action alternative has 43% of the park designated as wilderness (30,903 acres).

U.S. EPA rates the DEIS preferred alternative as **LO (Lack of Objection)**. The preferred alternative represents a large portion of the park being managed as the Experience Nature Management Zone, while still providing many recreational opportunities. We have included a Stormwater Green Sheet for your consideration during planning activities and project design. We also want to inform you that we recently became aware that using certain types of plastic mesh as an erosion barrier may prove fatal to snakes and birds. If these materials are used at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, please consider alternate materials or methods.

If you have any questions please contact Julie Guenther at (312) 886-3172 or email her at [guenther.julia@epa.gov](mailto:guenther.julia@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Kenneth A. Westlake  
NEPA Implementation  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Enclosures: Summary of Ratings Definition and Followup Action  
Stormwater Green Sheet

Cc: Superintendent Dusty Schultz  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
9922 Front St  
Empire, Michigan 49630-9797